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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Regional confidence-building measures

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. At its 36th meeting, on 18 November 1992, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2 by a recorded vote of 132 to 1, with 2 abstentions. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.1/47/L.50.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2, the General Assembly would welcome the programme of work, including confidence-building measures adopted by the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) at the organizational meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, held at Yaounde from 27 to 31 July 1992 under the auspices of the United Nations.

3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the Central African States in implementing the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

4. The above request is related to major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as proposed for revision. 1/ Related activities were initially programmed and approved under subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowship, training and advisory services, of section 5, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, 2/ responsibility for which was transferred to the Department of Political Affairs following the restructuring of the Secretariat. Proposals for the transfer of related resources to section 37, Department of Political Affairs, have been submitted to the General Assembly in the Secretary-General's revised estimates. 3/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

5. It is recalled that the General Assembly in its resolution 46/37 B of 6 December 1991 welcomed the initiative by the States members of ECCAS with a view to developing confidence-building measures, disarmament and development in their subregion by, in particular, the creation, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa. In paragraph 3 of that resolution the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue providing assistance to the Central African States by, in particular, establishing the standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa.

6. It is further recalled that in the oral statement of the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.6, the First Committee was informed that the Secretary-General would provide assistance in holding the organizational meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on security questions in Central Africa for five days in early 1992 at Yaounde. It was further indicated that the related requirements were estimated at $90,000 and that the Secretary-General would endeavour to cover these costs from extrabudgetary resources. Therefore, no additional appropriation was requested under section 5.

7. The ministerial-level organizational meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee was convened by the Secretary-General in July 1992 and financed from the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. At that meeting, the Committee decided that its offices should be held by rotation for a period of six months. Accordingly, Burundi and Gabon, currently Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, are expected to hold the chairmanship in 1993. Furthermore, as agreed by the Committee at its 1st meeting, its deliberations would take place at different levels, including meetings of experts (high-level military and civilian officials), ministerial meetings and talks between the heads of State concerned at their annual meetings in the context of ECCAS.

8. It is understood that it is the intent of the sponsors of the draft resolution that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General should assist in the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee by convening two meetings of the Committee in 1993 and that all relevant costs of convening and holding the meetings would have to be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations.

9. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the United Nations would not be requested to provide conference services and that the meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee would not be included in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1993. The Secretary-General further understands that each meeting would be held in the countries chairing the Committee at the time of the respective meetings. Thus, the 1st meeting would be convened at Bujumbura, Burundi, in early 1993, and the 2nd meeting would be held at Libreville, Gabon, six months later. The duration of each meeting would be five consecutive days and they would be comprised of two parts. The first part would last three days and would involve the participation of two experts (one civilian and one military) from each State member of ECCAS, involving a total of 22 participants. The second part of the meeting would be held in the remaining two days and would involve, besides the experts, one additional participant from each State member of the Community at the ministerial level.

10. The payment of travel and subsistence costs to governmental representatives at the meetings would require an exception to the general principle that only members of United Nations organs or subsidiary organs serving in their individual capacities should receive such reimbursements.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1992-1993

11. The activities called for by the draft resolution would fall under subparagraph 2 (c) (ii) of subprogramme 4, initially programmed under section 5, the activities of which are now the responsibility of the Department of Political Affairs as indicated in paragraph 4 above. Accordingly, no modifications would be required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

12. The requirements to undertake the activities described in paragraphs 8 and 9 above are estimated as follows:

I. Meeting at Bujumbura, Burundi (five days, 1993)

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A.	Conference-servicing costs	
1.	Rental of conference room	7 000
2.	Interpretation (E,F)	6 000
3.	Rental of office equipment	1 000
	Subtotal (a)	14 000
B.	Non-conference-servicing costs	
1.	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 22 experts for attendance for six days	46 300
2.	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 11 governmental representatives at ministerial level for attendance for three days	19 600
3.	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 2 staff members from New York - the Secretary of the Committee and 1 General Service from the Office for Disarmament Affairs - and 1 staff member from the regional centre in Lome	18 200
	Subtotal (b)	84 100
	Total (I), (a) and (b)	98 100

II. Meeting at Libreville, Gabon (five days 1993)

A.	Conference-servicing costs	
1.	Rental of conference room	7 700
2.	Interpretation (E,F)	6 600
3.	Rental of office equipment	1 200
	Subtotal (a)	15 500
B.	Non-conference-servicing costs	
1.	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 22 experts for attendance for six days	53 100
2.	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 11 governmental representatives at ministerial level for attendance for three days	20 800
3.	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 2 staff members from New York - the Secretary of the Committee and 1 General Service from the Office for Disarmament Affairs - and 1 staff member from the regional centre in Lome	15 700
	Subtotal (b)	89 600
	Total (II), (a) and (b)	105 100
	Grand total (I) and (II)	203 200

F. Potential for absorption

13. No provision has been made in the approved programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to undertake the activities enumerated in section C above. However, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Department of Political Affairs would make use of its staff resources, including those of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to provide the necessary substantive support services to the meetings. Otherwise, it is not anticipated that the cost of $203,200 referred to above could be absorbed from within the provision under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

G. Indication of additional requirements

14. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2, it is estimated that additional requirements of $203,200 would arise under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

H. Contingency fund

15. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

16. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the draft resolution may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

I. Summary

17. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2, it is estimated that additional appropriations of $203,200 would be required under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In addition, the General Assembly would need to grant an exception to pay for travel and subsistence costs of government representatives.

Notes

1/ A/47/6 (Prog. 7) and E/AC.51/L.5/Add.13.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

3/ A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1.